

1984 Comes To New Jersey Worse Is Better

NJDEP Refuses To Protect New Jersey Residents

The revised siting criteria developed by the NJDEP do not protect the health of NJ residents. The criteria do a good job of protecting wild and scenic rivers, endangered wildlife, and nature preserves, but do nothing to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who live in NJ cities.

The criteria would allow those parts of NJ that already suffer from the highest levels of air pollution to receive more pollution from additional toxic waste facilities. They would allow those parts of NJ where the number of people affected by an accident would be greatest to face added risk from more toxic facilities, and it would allow those areas where rates for cancer cardiac and other diseases are highest to have more opportunity to get sick. These criteria are supposed to solve New Jersey's toxic waste problem. They will only create more problems for the people of this state.

The Hazardous Waste Advisory Council even refuses to hold a hearing on their revised criteria in Ironbound, the community that would be affected by the siting of the first 3 new major hazardous waste facilities, including At Sea Incineration's huge toxic waste tank farm.

In an effort to correct a major weakness in the revised criteria, Assemblyman Raymond Lesniak has introduced a bill, A-3019, which would prohibit At-Sea Incineration from locating any part of its facility in cities of over 100,000. This would include Newark, Elizabeth, Jersey City and Paterson and protect residents in all nearby cities and towns.

The legislation was introduced in the wake of the Texaco fire and explosion on Jan. 7, where thousands of people were affected by both fumes and flying glass. Had one of the many toxic facilities in the immediate area gone up in flames, thousands of people would have been exposed to toxic fumes as they were on Oct. 10, 1982 when a toxic waste facility in Ironbound blew up forcing a partial evacuation.

The **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste** urges all N.J. residents to support A-3019 as a step in the direction of protecting the health of NJ residents from the dangers of pollution from toxic waste facilities.

For more information call **Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste** at (201) 589-4668.